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FREE CIRCULATION

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No greenery during festive time

Hundreds of plants kept under the South Usman Road bridge in T Nagar to transform a misused space under the flyover have been removed as the plants have wilted. Procured for at an exorbitant cost of 1,100 per plastic 'pot', including the plant, mud, maintenance and labour charges, the underspace of the bridge is again back to normal.

Between 2019 and 2021, the Greater Chennai Corporation set up vertical gardens under the flyover. As the contractor eventually abandoned the maintenance, the plants have withered. In less period of time, the plants have gone dry and the watering system with a tank and pipes too are missing.

GCC are reviewing the works and this time, they have sent proposals under Namakku Naame Thittam to set up vertical gardens under the same flyover.

Vertical gardens are unnecessary commercialization of greenery. The GCC should set up simple plants like wall-crawlers and climbers, residents opine. Plants that can naturally grow on walls and cost less like herbal florals and even money plants are an alternate choice, they suggested. Dust-accumulation and lack of adequate sunlight must have led to the plants withering off early, they lament. The drip pipe too gets clogged resulting in water not reaching the plant. Beneath the flyovers, they have to set up shade loving plants but there is a mismatch in species and they were not maintained well, they added.







Voice of GOD



This is the 145th Devaram Paadal Petra Shiva Sthalam and 28th Shiva sthalam on the south of river Kaveri in Chozha Nadu. The temple is situated near Porthamarai kulam in centre of Kumbakonam city. This one of Karonam temples in Tamil nadu after Nagai karonam and Kanchipuram karonam. People calls this temple as Somesar Koil / Temple. As per the inscriptions this place was called as Somanatha mangalam and Lord Shiva was also called as Banapureeswarar.

In Periyapuranam Sekkizhar records that Thirugnanasambandar came to this temple after worshiping Lord Shiva of Kudanthai Keelkottam. Thirugnanasambandar and Vallalar has sung hymns in praise of Lord Shiva of this temple.

Moolavar: Sri Somesar, Sri Chikkesar, Sri Somanathar, Consort: Sri Somasundari, Sri Thenar Mozhiyal. Some of the important features of the temples are.....

The Temple is facing east with 5 tier Rajagopuram which is kept locked and entrance is from road side. Dwajasthambam, balipeedam and Rishabam are in front of the sanctum. In sanctum Moolavar Somesar is of Swayambhu and short. In Koshtam Vinayagar, Dakshinamurthy, Brahma and Durgai. On the right side is the Ambal Thenar Mozhiyal.

In outer prakaram Kalyana Sundara Vinayagar, Sri Valli Devasena Subramaniar, Navagrahas, Sekkizhar, Nalvar, Natarajar Sabha. In the inner prakaram Kodi Panchara Koil, Vinayagar, Sri Valli Devasena Arumugar and Gajalakshmi. Chozheeswarar & Thiripura Sundari (believed to be worshiped by Parantaka Chozha), Maleesar and mangala Nayaki (are believed to be worshiped by Maha Vishnu) are also in the prakaram. Natarajar, Sivakami and Somaskandar are in the artha mandapam.

Ambal Mangala Nayagi is big in size and in standing posture. Malleeswarar Shiva Linga is by the side of Ambal. Kalyana Sundarar Sannadhi is opposite to Ambal sanctum. The 15th Century saint Arunagirinathar has sung hymns in praise of Lord Muruga of this temple.

ARCHITECTURE

The sanctum sanctorum consists of sanctum, antarala and artha mandapam. A Vesara Vimana is on the sanctum.

HISTORY AND INSCRIPTIONS

There is a saying that the Kumbakonam has many temples both Saivam and Vaishnavam. Even though in literatures, this place was mentioned as Kudamooku, now called as Kumbakonam. Once in 12 years Mahamaham is conducted in Mahamaha Theertha Tank on the day when Guru stands in Simha rasi and Chandran in Kumbha Rasi.

The Mahamaha Theertha tank is spreads over 15 acres and it has 9 wells and 16 sannadhis around the 4 banks. Apart from small temples, the Kumbakonam has 14 big temples with 14 tanks. They are Brahma theertheesam, Mukunthesam, Thanesam, Rishabesam, Banesam, Konesam, Bhakthesam, Bhairavesam, Agasthesam, Vyakesam, Gangadharesam, Bramesam and Moothatheerhesam. In addition to this temples, it has 14 Theerthas has, 7 Thadahas, 3 wells and 4 rivers steps. The maintenance of these tanks and Vimanas of 16 Shiva temples was built during Vijayanagara period by Achuthappa Nayak's minister Govinda Deekshithar. He carried out all these through Gold with thulabharam ie equal amount of his weight. His stone image is in Kumbeswarar Temple.

Govinda Deekshithar was instrumental in establishing Raja Veda Padasala, Schools, Pushba mandapas with Jodi / twin Vimanas, Velvi Sala next to Raja Veda Pada Sala,

* Your Stars This Year

Aries: You may encounter a person who will ignite your curiosity. A party, get-together, or simple gathering could present you with a new and interesting character to interact with. Discussions could be carried out smoothly, resulting in hours of meaningful discussions. If this blossoms into a friendly relationship.

Taurus: Romantic harmony is in focus this week, which will help you and your partner feel more secure. If you and your partner have recently experienced some difficulties. People can talk to each other more freely, and there is a need to get closer emotionally. If you are single, you may be attracted to someone.

Gemini: A social-spirited mood might take you and your partner to the community this week. Social or local event, you may be shaking hands with neighbours or meeting friends and acquaintances again. It is possible to come across a cause or topic that would interest both of you.

Cancer: Love becomes more poetic this week as you look forward to saying sweet things to the person you love. It is easy to find the right words, and you might want to write a beautiful message for the person you love. There is very little that can be done to question your feelings. If you are single, this may be the best time.

Leo: Light-heartedness and warmth are the keynotes in your love life. You need some change and to spend time with your partner more entertainingly. A casual weekend getaway or a simple time spent at home, having fun and being affectionate might do the trick. Do not have the urge to schedule all the activities; just let the week.

Virgo: New ways of thinking about things can bring about major changes in your love life. Your effort into self-improvement and learning is slowly starting to define your perception of relationships. When you are open to new opportunities and experiences, your partner may feel that you have changed how you share love.



2.55 Crore Pilgrims Visit Tirupati Temple in 2024

Devotees have been flocking to the temple in large numbers, with approximately 99 lakh people shaving their heads and making offerings over the past year. Following the easing of the Covid-19 pandemic, the temple's daily income from monetary offerings has consistently exceeded 3 crore. On weekdays, the average daily income from offerings is 3.6 crore, rising to 3.85 crore on weekends. Notably, on December 31, the temple recorded a peak income of 4.10 crore in a single day. On January 1, the first day of the new year, 69,630 devotees visited the temple, contributing 3.13 crore in offerings. Additionally, 18,965 devotees shaved their heads and made offerings. Before the pandemic, an average of 80,000 devotees visited the temple daily. However, over the past three years, the daily footfall has reduced to 70,000. Despite this decline, the temple has reported an annual income exceeding 1,200 crore for the last three years, demonstrating its enduring significance and the unwavering devotion of its followers.

Libra: This week is all about feelings as a warm conversation with a partner or a friend unveils a new level of intimacy. Conflicting perceptions may be resolved or uncertainties cleared up when people are open and honest. It is a chance to find out your common interests at the beginning of your relationship.

Scorpio: This week, the universe is full of energy. All kinds of admirers appear to be captivated by your spirit, so it's a great time to strengthen connections or consider fresh ones. If you are single, you may be surrounded by attention; your potential partners may reveal their feelings or start an interesting conversation.

Sagittarius: You get the much-needed answers about issues of the heart. You will start questioning what you want in a partner. The energies of the cosmos are urging you to go for something more serious and find people with whom you can build a connection. You might meet someone you do not expect to see.

Capricorn: You must learn how to manage your feelings well. There is no reason to share your feelings and emotions with those who do not care about your welfare. Do not waste your energy in the wrong places. Talk to your partner for some time and discuss your worries.

Aquarius: You may feel extra sensitive and wonder how people behave towards you. Sometimes, people may be genuinely harsh, but your nervous system makes you feel more offended than warranted. If you are in a relationship, do not hide your feelings from your partner. Discuss with a non-aggressive attitude.

Pisces: The pressures and responsibilities of work and other obligations may make you tired and stressed, which will not be good for your relationships. The stars encourage you to take care of your health. Sometimes, it is possible to get a fresh perspective by stepping back for a day or two. Best time to take a break and have a vacation together.

PREDICTION FOR THIS WEEK 05.01.2025 TO 11.01.2025

35% hike in professional tax to be implemented soon

The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has finalised a 35% hike in professional tax during its council meeting at the Ripon Building on Monday. The proposal, earlier introduced in July, will be implemented from the financial year 2024-2025.

Under the revised structure, individuals with a half-yearly income of 21,001 to 30,000 will pay 180 up from 135. For those earning from 30,001 to 45,000, the tax increases from 315 to 425, while income between 45,001 and 60,000 will see an increase from 690 to 930. However, the tax for income above 60,001 remains unchanged at 1,025 as the union government caps the maximum professional tax at 1,250.

The tax rates are increased once in five years and it was last revised from the first half of 2018-2019.

MTC to add Electric Buses to Fleet by 2025

In a significant step towards enhancing public transportation and promoting eco-friendly mobility, the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) has announced plans to add 1,320 electric buses to its existing fleet of 3,200 by the end of 2025. This move will increase the fleet size by 28%, reaching 4,500 buses, according to MTC sources. Currently, MTC operates about 3,200 buses daily, serving 32 lakh commuters across Chennai. Alongside replacing aging diesel buses with modern lowfloor and high-floor models, the corporation aims to procure 1,000 electric buses under the World Bank-funded Chennai City Partnership Programme through a Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model.







14th annual function of SS Best Trust

Sree Sabarimalai Bhaktha Educational & Social Trust (SS BEST), conducted its 14th Annual Function on 31st Dec & 1st January, at Mithilapuri Kalyana Mantapam & Ayodhya Mantapam, West Mambalam. In its function held on 31st evening the Trust distributed many welfare measures; Educational scholarship to poor children, including a final year BDS student. Hearing aid to hearing impaired person. The trust also has given a cheque to IBEA (TN) Education Trust, which runs a school near Pattukkottai for more than 20 years.

The Trust conferred a title "' Iconic Leader'" to the veteran trade Union leader, Sri K Chandrasekharan. Kalpathy V Sivakumar, founder of the meeting presided over the meeting. On 1st January the Trust organised Maharudram @ Ayodhya Mantapam where 150 rithviks chanted Rudram.



Udayam theatre closed permanently

dayam Theater is the place where many of today's top actors have celebrated their ideal heroes. This cinema was started in 1983 with four screens namely Udayam, Chandran, Suriyan and Mini Udayam. Udayam Theatre, which had been a major entertainment venue for 41 years, was closed permanently.

10, 15 years ago, Udayam Theater used to be bustling every Friday with the celebratory sound of drums and tall cutouts. Udayam Theater is now a quiet scene on the side of the ever-busy 100 Feet Road. After the boom in multiplex cinemas, many of the older theaters are also closing down.

Flower Show at Semmozhi Poonga

The fourth edition of the Chennai Flower Show commenced at Semmozhi Poonga, offering an 18day celebration of floral artistry. Inspired by the iconic Ooty Flower Show, the event features 50 types of flowers arranged in three million pots, forming 20 intricate shapes, including elephants, peacocks, trains, and butterflies. Flowers have been sourced from Ooty, Yercaud, Kodaikanal, and Krishnagiri, creating a vibrant display. Initially scheduled to conclude on January 11, the show has been extended to January 19 due to public demand. Entry fees have been revised to 200 for adults and 100 for children, sparking mixed reactions from visitors



Global Star 2024

Sharini.V Y, a talented student of Velammal Vidyalaya,

Vanagaram, has made her school and family proud by winning the prestigious title of "Global Star 2024" in the Mid Brain Activation contest. The contest was organized by Adhyapana Kalpavriksha Skill Development Academy, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, and



certified by the American Institute of Culture and Management. This remarkable achievement showcases Sharini's exceptional skills and abilities, and her potential to excel in various fields.





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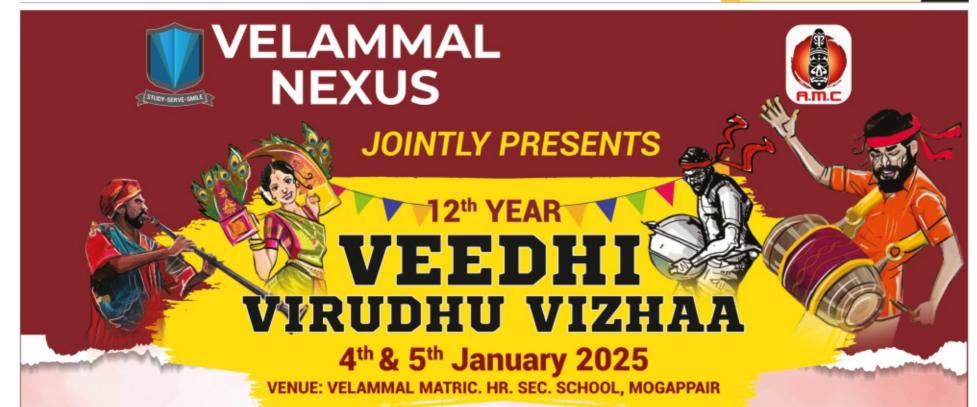
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Bharatanatyam performance

Inder the auspice of Karthik Fine Arts, Athriya

Krishna Balaji (15 years old, resident of North Usman Road, T.Nagar) will be perform Bharthanatyam at 7 p.m on Monday, Jan.6 at Sri Balaganpathy Hall, Santhome. She is a disciple of Vinitha Subramaniam and learning Bharathiyar for more than 10 years. She will be accompanied by Pooja Sugam (Nattuvangam), Muralisangeeth (Vocal), Nagai Prabhu Sriram

(Mridangam),

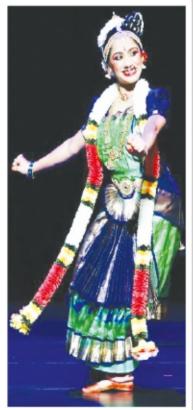
(Violin) and

Vinodhkumar

Anantharaman Balaji

Soundararajan (flute).

All are welcome.



Stop illegal dumping

Indiscriminate dumping of solid waste along the roadside on Puliyur Ist Street in Kodambakkam is a concern for local people and motorists as the perennial issue remains unchecked. Heaps of garbage are dumped by hoteliers, workers from marriage halls and by motorists. They lay near the garbage bins in gunny bags.

Some individuals may not be fully aware of the environmental and health hazards associated with improper waste disposal. Educating communities about the importance of proper waste management can help address this issue. If residents or commercial establishments do not have easy access to proper waste disposal facilities, they may resort to dumping garbage on roads out of convenience or necessity. Weak enforcement of environmental regulations and inadequate penalties for illegal dumping can contribute to the persistence of this

Illegal dumping has public health, economic, and environmental consequences. Illegal dumping also attracts rats and other vermin. There must be system in place to remove garbage within a specified time to bring down illegal dumping. The interventions will make residents feel better about their neighborhoods, seeing these places not just free of debris, but more cared for.



Champion

Vidyalaya, Vanagaram Chennai, Tamilnadu, has made his school and the state proud by securing the First position in the 20th National Taekwon-Do ITF Championship 2024, held in the 12-14 years age category. The championship was held at Bardoli, Surat, Gujarat from December 28th to 30th, 2024.

> Daaruneshwar's exceptional technique, strategy, and mental toughness set him apart from the competition, earning

him the coveted first position. His achievement is a testament to his hard work, dedication, and passion for the sport. Adding to his glory, he was also conferred with the prestigious Young Achievers Award, along with a certificate of appreciation, by the International Human Rights Anticrime Commission, in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments.

Maths Day Celebrated

he Mathematics Department of Kola Perumal ChettyVaishnav Senior Secondary School, Arumbakkam, organized a vibrant Maths Day Celebration on 23rd December 2024. The event was graced by Chief Guest, Smt. Geetha Ganesh, VP, ChinmayaVidyalaya, Kilpauk, Shri. Vishal Agarwal, Management Committee Member, PTA Members, Principal, Shri.T. Ramasubramanian, Vice Principal, Smt.S. Silambuselvi, parents and all the well wishers.

The event was a showcase of creativity, innovation, and teamwork. Students from classes VI to VIII



enthusiastically participated by presenting a wide range of working models, static models, charts, and

explanations. Each exhibit reflected their deep understanding of mathematical concepts and their ability to apply them to real-world scenarios.

Highlights of the Exhibition was cultural performances like the Tangram Dance and Shape Walk. Working & Static Models and Charts: Innovative projects, colourful and informative charts elucidated complex theories, formulas, and problem-solving techniques in a simplified manner.

Explanations: The students confidently explained their exhibits, impressing the audience with their clarity, knowledge, and enthusiasm.

The Chief Guest lauded the efforts of the students and teachers for organizing such an enriching event. She emphasized the importance of mathematics in everyday life and encouraged students to continue exploring and enjoying the subject.

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Fence to avoid garbage dump

he garbage dump in a vacant land at Anna Salai in T Nagar opposite to HIG Apartments has turned the place into something more than just an eyesore. Passers-by throw garbage and the place is misused. As garbage is piling up it is turning into a breeding ground for mosquitoes, complains Ramasamy, a resident of the locality. The unbearable stench is causing inconvenience to residents. During the night the place is a haven for unsocial elements who consume liquor. They come from neighbouring streets and throw empty bottles over here, says a resident on anonymity. Students of the street every day have to pass along the unbearable stench emanating from the heaps of garbage dumped in the vacant space.

Students have been falling sick frequently because of the unhygienic dump which has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes, laments Usha, a long time resident. Anantha Krishnan a resident of a neighbouring street says that despite remaining vacant and undeveloped for long and the land has not been visited by its owners and they have not taken up any fencing work to prevent any one from encroaching it. One good rain is enough to turn the land into a pond and make things worse for the residents of the nearby localities.

The wastes are being dumped mainly during nights, complains Lakshmi, a resident. It has become difficult to deal with the problem and is becoming a nuisance for residents even as passersby use it as a urinal and garbage dump. The situation is getting quite unpleasant. Despite several representations to the authorities concerned, no action has been taken. The place has also doubled up as public urinals, he lamented.

A severe problem which no one seems to care about is negligence towards their hygiene and safety, says Dr Uma Shankar, a resident of the Street. As the garbage is not cleaned at regular intervals of time it leads to many contagious diseases in the locality, he added. The broken Wall must be re-built or fenced to ensure protection to the land. Due to the lack of common sense, people still carried on with throwing the garbage, says Vinayagam, a resident. People who do not realize that by only keeping their homes clean and neat they cannot expect to lead a sustainable life, caring about their surroundings should very much be a part of everyone's life, says a senior civic





construction debris

ven though the civic body has announced designated locations across its 15 zones for the

√ disposal of construction and demolition (C&D) waste free of charge, Dumping continue at Srinivasa Street Extension in West Mambalam which is also a dead end street. The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) had recently increased the fine for illegal dumping of construction waste from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 per tonne.

The GCC has also mandated private lorry owners, individuals and agencies involved in collecting and transporting construction waste to register with the solid waste management department. A one-time registration fee of Rs 1,000 will be collected for registration. Only registered vehicles will be permitted at the sites, and unauthorised or mixed waste dumping will be prohibited.

During the night hours, few residents in the area dump the waste here causing difficulty for others in the area, residents opine. The construction waste is left here by the workers who dump the waste during the odd hours. In many cases, the residents dispose of kitchen waste, furniture waste debris, and all kinds of perishable and non-perishable items which they find convenient to throw away. The waste will be lying for a few weeks and during the rains, it leads to mosquito and other insect menace which raises various health concerns, residents opine.



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